

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/679,221

Examiner

Van T. Trieu

Applicant(s)

LIMMER, GARRETT L.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the Amendment filed on 08 August 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 23-42.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 9/21/05.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. **Derek R. Van Gilder**, Registration No. 34,268, on 21 September 2005.

The application has been amended as follows: the applicant confirms that the withdrawn claim 14 is canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: there are no prior arts teaching or suggesting of a leak-stopper system for water plumbing comprising:

a leak-probe circuit (1) positioned in water-detection proximity to water plumbing (2) for a building;

an electrical circuit having electrical communication from a predetermined plurality of predetermined spaced-apart leak sensors (3) on the leak-probe circuit (1) to a control board (4);

the leak sensors (3) include three-probe sensors (14) having an output probe (15) an intermediate a first input probe (16) and a second input probe (17);

the leak-probe circuit (1) is in electrical communication with the first input probe (16) and the second input probe (17) through input connectors (18);

the leak-probe circuit (1) is in return electrical communication with the output probe (15) through an output connector (19);

the first input probe (16) and a second input probe (17) are articulated to convey current through leakage water (7) to the output probe (15) and the output probe (15) is articulated to receive the current through the leakage water (7) for conveying the current from the leakage water (7) through the output connector (19) and into the leak-probe circuit (1) for communication to designated visual leak signalers (5) on the control board (4);

visual leak signalers (5) on the control board (4) being in electrical communication with the leak sensors (3) for electrically detecting and signaling location of any water leakage of the water plumbing (2) proximate one or more of the leak sensors (3) to at least one of the visual leak signalers (5) on the control board (4);

the water plumbing (2) including a plumbing valve (6) with predetermined features for shutting off water to the water plumbing predetermined in response to detection of leakage of the water plumbing (2) in order to allow the water leakage to be fixed before water damage occurs to the building or to contents of the building;

the leak sensors (3) being articulated for detecting water leakage (7) by closing of circuitry of the leak sensors (3) predetermined with leakage water (7) for

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communicating position of the leakage water (7) by communicating position of at least one of the leak sensors (3) with circuitry closed by the leakage water (7) to at least one of predetermined visual leak signalers (5) on the control board (4);

the control board (4) being articulated in coordination with the water plumbing (2) and the leak-probe circuit (1) for indicating location of the leakage water (7) by indicating location of at least one of the leak sensors (3) with circuitry closed by the leakage water (7); and

an electrical source (8) for supplying user-safe electrical current to components of the leak-stopper system for detecting leaks, for communicating their location, for operating the plumbing valve (6) and for other related functions.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from examiner should be directed to primary examiner **Van Trieu** whose telephone number is (571) 272-2972. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. **Jeffery Hofsass** can be reached on (571) 272-2981.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Van Trieu', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Van Trieu
Primary Examiner
Date: 9/21/05